EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Tornado Storms January 8, 2008, 10 am

SUMMARY

A cold frontal boundary that is stretching from the Canadian Maritimes to the Gulf of Mexico is slowly pushing across the State of Missouri. Clashing with the unusually warm moist air, it has generated several lines of powerful thunderstorms that have lightening, large hail and devastating tornadoes. These storms have killed at least two Missourians and the reported number of injuries is climbing toward thirty. Many homes have been destroyed or damaged and some jurisdictions have opened shelters.

County Reports:

Barry County – No deaths, four minor injuries. Mobile Home Park was destroyed in Purdy. Two shelters were opened, but have been closed. Significant flooding in or near Cassville and Monett. Roads have been damaged, but are open.

Christian County – Several homes were damaged. Emergency Management Director is conducting damage assessment.

Greene County – One confirmed death and one injury. City of Springfield reports 8-10 buildings with severe damage and/or destroyed in downtown Springfield along or near the Chestnut Expressway. Strafford suffered at least 30 homes and businesses destroyed. At least 15 homes damaged, 12 with major damage, 2 destroyed in Republic. In addition three businesses impacted – one seriously damaged. Republic School was damaged One shelter has been opened in Strafford with a population of 25. All roads are open in Springfield. Some roads in the Strafford area are closed to due to wires in the road.

Jasper County – One mobile home destroyed and one mobile home damaged.

Laclede County – Damage heavy in Conway. Several people injured critically. Lots of agricultural and livestock damage. 15-20 homes destroyed. 12 reported injuries, 4-6 were transported to hospitals. Spotty power outages in the county. No roads closed at this time. City of Lebanon has reported loss of power, but is expected to be back up later this morning.

McDonald County - 10-15 structures damaged including farm buildings. Flash flooding in Noel and Southwest City - four water rescues due to flooding. Most power is on. South of Pineville is where most of the houses that were damaged. Two shelters were opened and remained opened this morning.

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Phelps County -40 homes reported damaged. 8-10 outbuildings and about 25 head of cattle killed most of this around the northwest portion of the county around the Dixon area. Shelter was opened, but most people went to friends and relatives and the shelter has shut down.

Pulaski County – Tornado touched down east of Dixon. Five critical injuries were taken to Phelps County Memorial Hospital. Their home was a total lost. Some reports of localized flooding.

Taney County - Couple of mobile homes were damaged. A condominium in Branson was damaged.

Webster County – One fatality confirmed at this time and about four injuries that was hospitalized of which 3 are considered critical. Some walking wounded who refused treatment. 6 homes confirmed destroyed and 50 homes damaged primarily in Marshfield. At least three tornadoes have been confirmed as touching down in the northern part of the county. Localized flash flooding has been reported **primarily in southern portions of the county**. A shelter has been opened in Marshfield. No requests for assistance at this time. American Red Cross is assisting in doing damage assessment for homes.

Wright County – No deaths or injuries. No major damages to homes, only outbuildings. Damage assessment. Some bridge problems. Power outages are spotty, with the exception of the northeast portion of the county, about 3,000 to 4,000 meters without power. Flooding throughout the county and is hampering power restoration efforts.

Weather

National Weather Service indicates another line of storms will advance across Missouri early morning. This line of thunderstorms may also produce heavy winds, hail and possibly tornado activity. There is the possibility of wintry mix following passage of the cold front to the southeast. There is a continuing Tornado Watch for Southeast Missouri. There are still some flash flood warnings out for southern Missouri.

State Agencies

SEOC Activated to Level One and will be collecting damage assessment information to help support local jurisdictions.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS checked with nursing homes and everything was in order.

Missouri Public Service - Power outages throughout the night, but spotty in location. AmerenUE reports 1,200 out of service. Aquila around 80, and KCP& L reported very few outages. Empire reported about 200 homes and businesses without power and expect to have everything back up by noon. Missouri Electric Cooperatives report about 500 meters were out.

Missouri State Highway Patrol – Dispatched officers throughout Troop D and Troop I for assistance to local jurisdictions.

Missouri State Water Patrol – MSWP has sent three officers to Conway, Missouri to assist local officials. Sent an additional officer to Purdy (Barry County) to assist local officials. Officers have returned to normal duty, but are available for assistance.

Missouri Dept of Transportation – Many minor roads closed. Please check their website to for particular closures.

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Missouri Information Analysis Center – Ramped up and provided overnight situational reports to key Missouri officials.

Non Government Organizations/Volunteer Organizations:

AmeriCorps has 25-28 people staged in Southwest Missouri with chainsaws, etc. to assist in debris clearance. Teams from Lamar in Barton County have been moved to Springfield in preparation for helping in Greene County or other places as directed.

American Red Cross is coordinating shelter service throughout the State. They have a lot of people out doing damage assessment.

Salvation Army is monitoring the situation. They are very active in the Springfield area as well as Rolla.

Point of Contact:

The State Emergency Management Agency can be contacted at 573-526-9100 from 730am-430pm, Mon-Fri. After hours emergency calls can be made to the SEMA Duty Officer at 573-751-2748.